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From: Lawler, Mark [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 2:16 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Cc: [e-mail address redacted]
Subject: Supporting Oregon-based Satellite PTO Location

All,

I have been in the software industry for over two decades and am a named inventor on 3 US Patents and numerous international derivative patents. I can attest that the patent process was far from ideal and it took several years (5 to 7) of back and forth with patent examiners to have these granted due to the lack of a stable workforce of examiners. This time cost my start-up company many opportunities. In the software industry innovation is measured in weeks and months, not in terms of half a decade or more. I am convinced that had my business been located in the DC area this process would have been much quicker and less onerous as examiners changed. That said, my company was based in Portland, Oregon and the examiners were remote. Whereas the Portland region ranks 15th nationwide in patents issued in the last five years (2006 to 2010) it ranks 6th per capita it is a region that is known for attracting and retaining technical talent; the software industry alone is one of four targeted by Portland's Economic Development Agency for explosive growth in the coming years.

When pioneers followed the Oregon and California Trails more than 150 years ago they reached a key decision point at Fort Hall, their last opportunity for provisioning before they had to commit to a route. The choice was between the gold fields of California and a dream of getting rich quick or to build enduring value in the rich farm fields of Oregon's Willamette Valley. Both trails were equally difficult, and the work at the destination as equally challenging. The key difference was the motivation and the culture of those who went each way. Many will attest that the same "Fort Hall" decision is made by technology professionals each and every year as more and more choose Oregon as a destination to relocate to build enduring value; it is in our DNA and it continues to grow and prosper. I personally made that same "Fort Hall" decision when I relocated from Los Angeles to Portland back in the mid 90s while I was doing Mergers and Acquisitions work for Symantec. Locating a Satellite Patent and Trade Office in Oregon would be a further investment in that enduring value.

Given our culture and our high-tech center of excellence and innovation I believe that Oregon would be a great location for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to attract and retain skilled professionals, while at the same time greatly assisting our economy.

Best,
-Mark

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